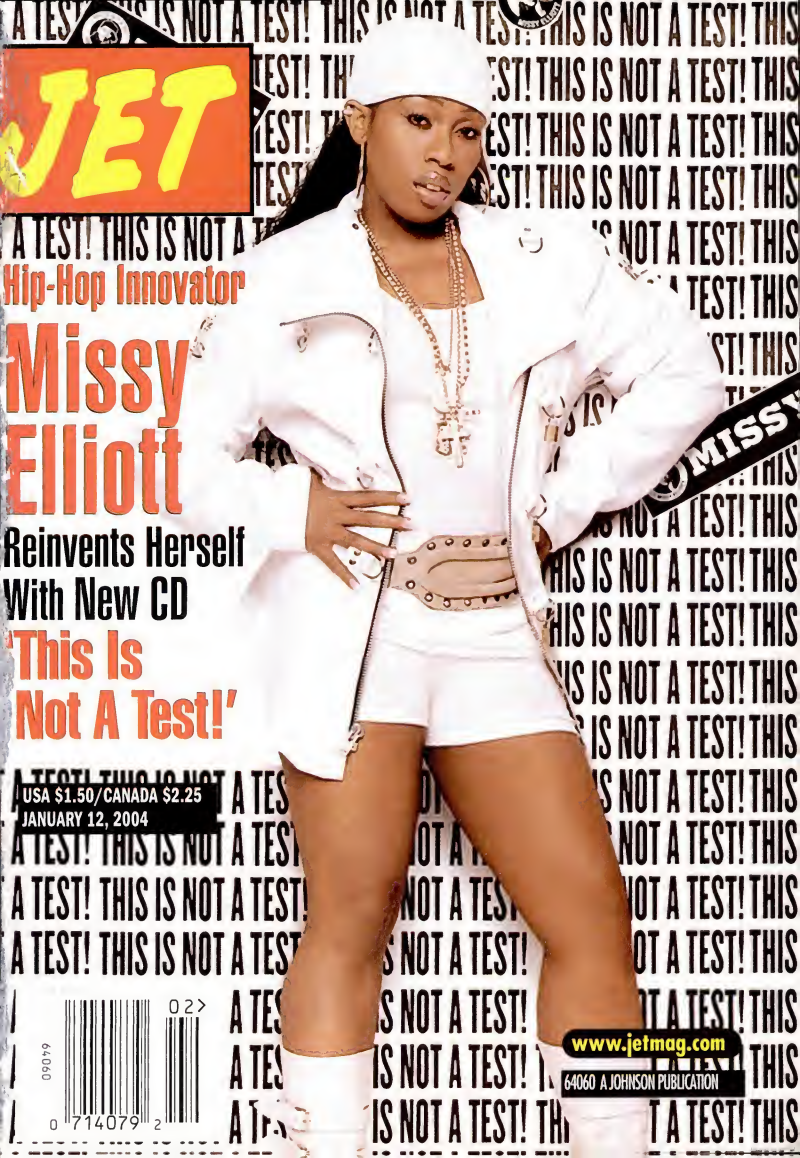




JET

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Missy Elliott

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With New CD**

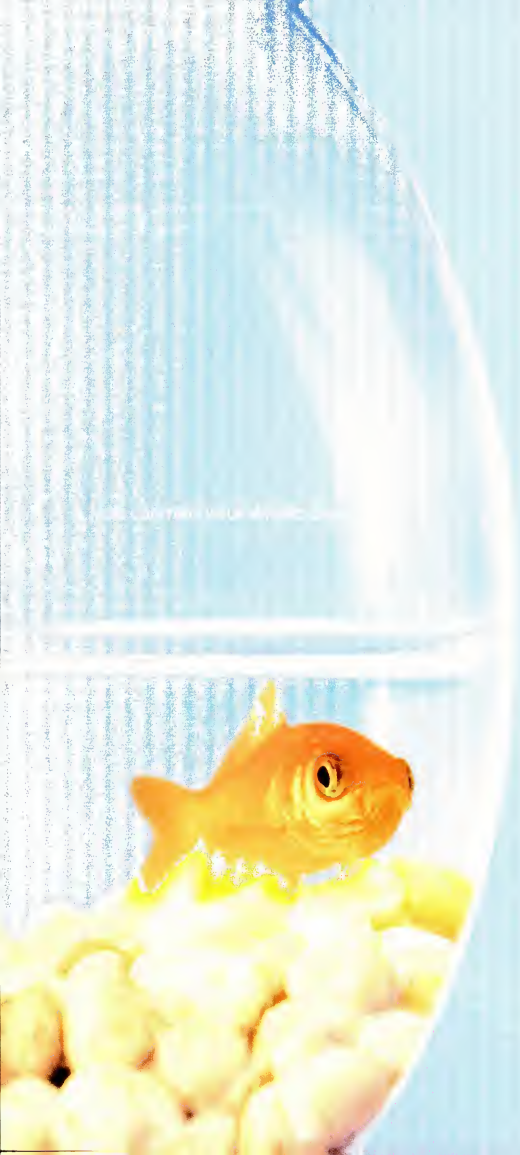
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▲ **ESSIE MAE WASHINGTON-WILLIAMS**, 78, reveals she is the late South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond's out-of-wedlock child **ON PAGE 4**.

Cover photo by Warwick Saint

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JET is published weekly: U.S.A., one year \$38.00; Canada, Pan America \$44.00; foreign \$48.00 by Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., 820 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605. Payable in U.S. currency only. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to JET, PO Box 56212 Boulder, CO. 80321-6212

Offices at Rockefeller Center, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, 6500 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048.

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Canadian GST No. R 124 411380

Return Undeliverable Canadian Address To P.O. Box 503, RPO West Beaver Creek, Richmond Hill ON L4B 4R6

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40048950

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NATIONAL REPORT

78-Year-Old Retired S.C. Teacher Reveals Late Sen. Strom Thurmond Was Her Father



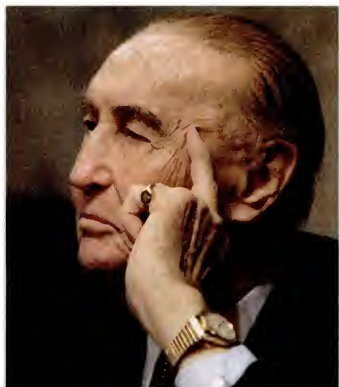
▲*"I knew him beyond his public image," said Essie Mae Washington-Williams. "I certainly never did like the idea that he was a segregationist."*

"My name is Essie Mae Washington-Williams. My mother, who is now deceased, was named Carrie Butler. And she worked for the Thurmond family. I was born in Aiken, South Carolina, on October the 12th, 1925. My father's name was James Strom Thurmond."

With that halting statement during a news conference in Columbia, SC, the once enigmatic 78-year-old woman, oft-whispered to be the illegitimate daughter of once staunch segregationist Sen. Strom Thurmond and a Black maid, thrust her-

self into the national spotlight.

Thurmond served in the Senate for 48 years until his death last year at the age of 100. He was the Dixiecrat presidential candidate who declared in 1948 that there were



▲ *Strom Thurmond, who helped support his illegitimate daughter financially, stated there were "not enough troops in the Army to force Southern people to integrate."*

"not enough troops in the Army to force the Southern people to break down segregation and admit the Negro race into our theaters, into our swimming pools, into our homes, and into our churches."

During his tenure, Thurmond gave a 24-hour speech (setting a filibuster record) in the Senate against the Civil Rights Act of 1957 in an attempt to spare the South from "mongrelization."

However, later in his life, he changed his views, employing many Blacks to work in his office and even

supported a national holiday honoring the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Thurmond was 22 and Butler was 16 when Williams was born in Aiken, SC, in 1925. She was raised in Pennsylvania by an aunt and uncle, seeing her mother sporadically—and not meeting Thurmond until she was 16.

"I knew him beyond his public image. I certainly never did like the idea that he was a segregationist, but there was nothing I could do about it," she said.

"I did my part as far as trying to convince him; of course, that was his life and I did not try to change him."

Williams said her children were a big reason she came forward with her story.

"It was only at the urging of my children and Senator Thurmond's passing that I decided that my children deserve the right to know from whom, where, and what they have come," Williams said. "I am committed to teaching them and helping them to learn about their past. It is their right to know, and I understand the rich history of their ancestry, Black and White.

"At this juncture in my life, I am looking for closure. I am not bitter. I am not angry. In fact, there's a great sense of peace that has come over me in the past year. Once I decided that I would no longer harbor such a great secret that many others knew."

Williams said Thurmond never



denied she was his daughter and gave her money throughout her life.

Walter Thurmond Bishop, Thurmond's nephew and the chief federal bankruptcy court judge for South Carolina, told *The Washington Post* he was a "pass-through" for payments sent by cashier's check to Williams.

Thurmond's family said they acknowledge Williams' claim, and the former senator's oldest son, U.S. Attorney Strom Thurmond Jr., said he would like to meet his half-sister and start a relationship.

"The extended Thurmond family wants to arrange a meeting with

Ms. Williams and her children as soon as practicable in a quiet setting," the relatives said in a statement through their lawyer.

"There are many stories like Sally Hemings' and mine," Williams said, referring to Thomas Jefferson's relationship with one of his Black slaves. "The unfortunate measure is that not everyone knows about these stories that helped to make America what it is today.

"I feel as though a great weight has been lifted. I am Essie Mae Washington-Williams, and at last I feel completely free."

Alphonso Jackson Picked For Housing Secretary By President Bush

Calling him "one of the most experienced and respected authorities on housing policy in America," President George W. Bush recently nominated Alphonso Jackson for the post of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development during a White House news conference.

A native of Marshall, TX,

► *President Bush congratulates Alphonso Jackson on his nomination as secretary of Housing and Urban Development.*



Jackson, 58, will become the third Black in the Bush cabinet.

HUD's deputy secretary for the past three years, Jackson was promoted to the top housing level when Secretary Mel Martinez resigned recently to make an expected run for U.S. Senate.

"There is no higher honor than to be asked to serve one's country," Jackson responded. "I am excited to carry on the administra-



Alphonso Jackson

tion's increasing homeownership, expanding affordable housing and working to help local communities build a better tomorrow."

As Deputy Secretary, he served as HUD's chief operating officer, managing the day-to-day operations with 9,300 employees and an annual budget of \$32 billion.

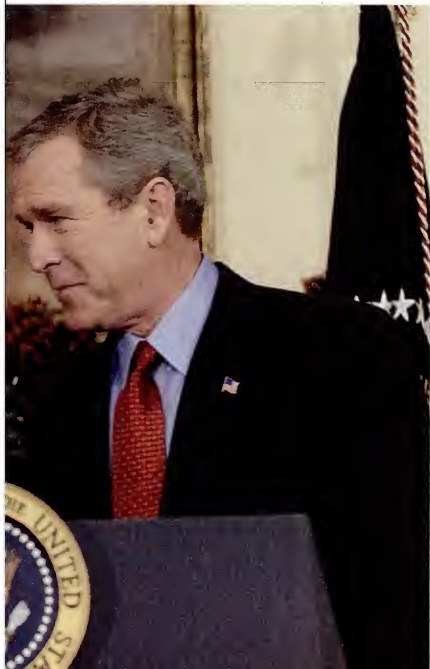
Previously CEO of the Dallas Housing Authority, it was awarded the highest ranking of any big city public housing agency, consistently scoring 94 on a 100-point management scale.

Jackson also served as Texas' General Services Commission Chairman. The commission oversees state properties, procurement and telecommunications.

His nomination will be considered by the U.S. Senate when the body convenes later this month.

Jackson earned a master's degree in education administration from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO, and a law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

Jackson joins two other Black cabinet members: Colin Powell, secretary of state, and Roderick R. Paige, secretary of education.



TICKER TAPE

by Simeon Booker, Washington Bureau Chief

Confidential: The first U.S. primary, D.C.'s Jan. 13 contest, designed to expose the lack of national voting rights for the residents of the predominantly Black nation's capital, attracted only four (of the nine) Democratic presidential candidates—ex-Vermont Gov. **Howard Dean**, Rep. **Dennis Kucinich**, and the two Blacks, the Rev. **Al Sharpton** and ex-Illinois Sen. **Carol Moseley-Braun**. The one-day event suddenly has become a crucial test of civil rights for Democrats...Harlem remains the favorite Black stop for presidential candidates. So far, **Wesley Clark** and Howard Dean have visited the inner-city turf which N.Y. Rev. Al Sharpton calls his own. The question: Is Sharpton or

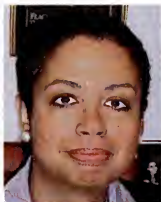
Rep. **Charles Rangel** the real boss?...For a man who has been arrested and beaten many times during Dixie missions, Rep. **John Lewis** finally had a day to fondly remember. He was the No. 1 participant at the White House signing in the Oval Office of the National African American Museum Bill. The ceremony pushed to the forefront Lewis' promotion over five other Black memorials struggling for funds to start building in the nation's capital...Hempstead, N.Y., Mayor **James A. Garner**, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, joined HHS Secretary **Tommy Thompson** and a 90-person delegation on a mission in sub-Saharan Africa to observe the impact of AIDS in four countries.

National Headliners

GOP press officer **Anna M. Perez**, who returned to the White House to serve as communications director for her friend, **Condoleezza Rice**, quit her job recently to return to her husband in California...Famous Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon **Ben Carson** participated in a brain operation in the upcoming movie *Stuck On You*...UN Association President **John C. Whitehead** and businessman **J. Bruce Llewellyn** will receive awards at a diplomatic studies dinner in D.C. Feb. 26 celebrating the centenary of **Ralph Bunche's** birth...When Black Caucus Chair Rep. **Elijah Cummings** finally endorsed Howard Dean for president, the media was more interested in the capture of **Saddam Hussein** in Iraq. Only the Baltimore Sun paper recognized its hometown's decision...N.Y. Rep. Charles Rangel told House members Dr. **W. E. B. DuBois'** doctoral thesis remains the first volume in Harvard University's Historical Series. The subject: Africa's slave trade.



John Lewis



Anna M. Perez



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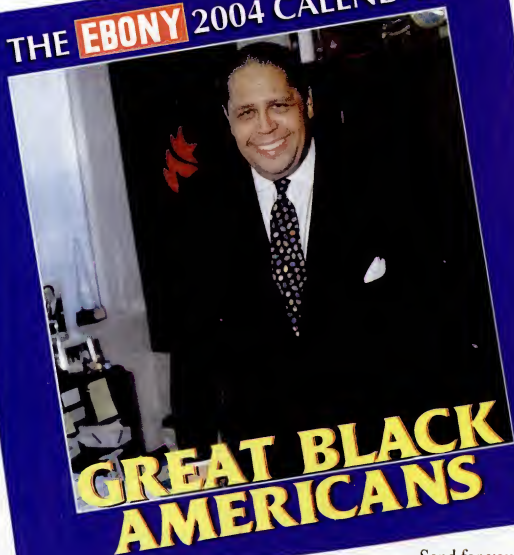
▲ **BUSH OKS NATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM:** President Bush signs H.R. 3491, the National Museum of African-American History and Culture Act, in the Oval Office in Washington, D.C. The act authorizes the creation of a Smithsonian Institution museum dedicated to the legacy of Black Americans in America. Unless otherwise noted, the attendees are members of the Presidential Commission on the Development of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture. They are actress Cicely Tyson (at Bush's left) and Lerone Bennett Jr., *EBONY* Magazine executive editor and historian (behind Tyson); (l-r) Dr. Robert Wright, commission chairman; Renee Amore; Vicky Bailey; Andrew McLemore Jr.; Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.); Rick Santorum (R-PA); Michael Lomax; Rep. John Lewis (D-GA); Harold Skramstad, Jr.; Barbara Franco; Robert Wilkins; Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS); Rep. John Larson (D-CT); Eric Sexton; Claudine Brown; Larry Small, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Currie Ballard. The bill that Bush signed calls for an advisory committee to work with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. on the plans for the new museum. The bill also states that a site should be selected within 12 months. The museum could be opened by 2013, organizers say.

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George G. Lee

▲ The Rev. Jesse Jackson (2nd, r) leads marchers in Goose Creek, SC, to protest a police drug raid at a local high school, which protesters claim was racially motivated.

Jesse Jackson Protests Police Drug Raid In South Carolina

The Rev. Jesse Jackson recently led more than 1,000 marchers in South Carolina to protest a police drug raid at Stratford High School in Goose

Creek, near Charleston, a raid which Jackson charges was racially motivated.

Carrying signs and chanting slogans, Jackson and Rainbow/PUSH

▼ Kendra Gambrell (l) and Alma King rally for equal justice, opportunity and shared economic security with more than 1,000 protesters.



Coalition members, national ministers, community leaders and students decried the alleged use of excessive force by police in the Nov. 5 raid and called for equal justice, opportunity and shared economic security in the state.

"This type of dragnet approach appears to be motivated by race," said Jackson, who joined a lawsuit filed in federal court by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Black students alleging Constitutional violations of search and seizure and due process.

According to students, when they arrived on campus the entryway was locked, causing them to enter the school through an alternate entrance. Shortly after, police swarmed the hallway, occupied by mostly Black students. Surveillance camera video showed police ordering students to the floor while officers with guns and drug-sniffing dogs searched them. About 100 students were searched, but no illegal drugs were found and no one was arrested.

Police, who denied any racial profiling, said the aggressive tactics were needed to ensure the safety of the officers and other students. State and federal officials are investigating whether any criminal laws were broken by police.

"Severe suffering has been unleashed on these children," said Sharon Smalls, mother of a Black student searched in the raid. "School is supposed to be a safe haven, not a place where students are violated and humiliated."

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► **SHAKING UP THE MUSIC INDUSTRY:** Singer-songwriter Kelis, shown with her younger sister, Fayraka, shows off the engagement ring that her fiancé, rap star Nas, presented to her last year (JET, August 18, 2003). *Milkshake*, the first single from her new CD, *Tasty*, has taken off with lightening speed with its distinctive funk and sexy playground rap. The tune earned her a Grammy nomination for Best Urban/Alternative Performance. Nas makes an appearance in the video for the song. Kelis wrote *Milkshake* along with her longtime friends Pharrell and Chad of the Neptunes. *Tasty*, on which she is the sole executive producer, is her second CD released in the States. The 2001 CD *Wanderland* was released only in Asia and Europe. The Harlem native first hit the music scene in 1999 with the rock-soul tune *Caught Out There*, which consisted of the loud, unforgettable phrase "I hate you so much right now." She also performed with Nas on last year's *The Neptunes Present... Clones* compilation and sang the hook on Busta Rhymes' popular dance tune *What It Is*.



P. Diddy To Make Broadway Debut In Revival Of 'A Raisin In The Sun'

P. Diddy has done it all—music, film, fashion. Now he's headed to Broadway.

The award-winning performer, whose name is Sean Combs, will make his Broadway debut in a revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

The production is Lorraine Hansberry's land-



P. Diddy

mark drama, whose title was inspired by a line from a Langston Hughes poem. The play is the story of the Youngers, a Chicago South Side family trying to survive in cramped quarters. When the matriarch of the family gets a \$10,000 check from her husband's life insurance, they move to

a larger house in a White suburb.

P. Diddy will play Walter Lee Younger, the role portrayed by Sidney Poitier on Broadway in 1959 and again in the 1961 movie. Walter Lee is the headstrong male member of the Younger clan who is excited about striking it rich so that he can get out of the ghetto.

The exact dates, the rest of the casting and the theater will be announced later. Kenny Leon, the former artistic director of the Alliance Theater in Atlanta, will direct the production. Rehearsals will begin in mid-February with preview performances starting in

mid-March and opening a month later.

P. Diddy auditioned several times for the producer, casting director and Leon over the course of the fall. "We were all incredibly impressed. He's focused on the work," said producer David Binder.

The acclaimed performer has no stage experience and has appeared in the movies *Made* and *Monster's Ball*. Binder said he contacted P. Diddy after a mutual acquaintance suggested that P. Diddy "was interested in doing serious, challenging work in the theater." He will perform on Broadway using his real name.

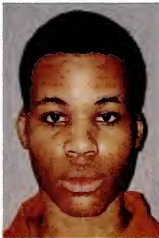
Lee Malvo Found Guilty In Sniper Shooting

LAW & JUSTICE

A Chesapeake, VA, jury has found 18-year-old Lee Malvo guilty of two counts of capital murder for participating in the 2002 sniper attacks that left 10 people dead and terrorized the Washington, D.C., area.

It took the jury nearly two days of deliberations to convict Malvo for killing Linda Franklin, 47, shot in a Home Depot parking lot in Falls Church, VA, and Dean Myers as he pumped gas in Manassas, VA. They rejected both Malvo's insanity claim and that the Jamaican native was not the triggerman in the sniper spree.

One of the counts against Malvo alleged the killing was part of a



Lee Malvo

series of murders over a three-year period; the other alleged that the murder of Franklin (who worked for the FBI) was intended to terrorize the public. Malvo and his accomplice John Muhammad are the first people tried under Virginia's post Sept. 11 terrorist law.

As of JET press time, the jury was deciding whether Malvo should be sentenced to death or life in prison without parole. A nearby Virginia Beach jury convicted Muhammad, 42, last year and recommended that he be executed for his role as the mastermind of the killings (JET, Dec. 15, 2003).

Beauty From The Inside Out

The cold and gloomy days of winter can sometimes have a way of making you feel less than attractive. Keep in mind that beauty is more than what shows on the outside. How good you look and feel stems from your inner health and energy.

Flawless skin, head turning hair, and a toned body are attributes that need to be nurtured. To get these things you have to start by working on your beauty from the inside out. By getting plenty of sleep, a proper diet and exercise, you could be well on your way to a beautiful new you for the New Year.

*Sleep well.

Getting a good night's sleep gives you the energy you need to get through the next day and tackle life's challenges. The National Sleep Foundation recommends that adults get seven to nine hours of sleep a night without disruption to function at their best.

To eliminate sleepless nights, which can cause you to have bags under your eyes, keep a regular sleep schedule by going to bed at the same time nightly. Also avoid caffeine, nicotine, alcohol and late-night snacks six to eight hours before bedtime to improve the quality of your sleep.



How good you look and feel stems from your inner health and energy.

*Eat well.

Eating a balanced and nutritious meal is essential to staying healthy and looking good. By eating foods packed with nutrients like protein and vitamins and minerals such as vitamin E, calcium, iron and zinc, you are taking the proper steps to fortify your skin, hair and nails.

Foods like fish, avocados and nuts contain healthful fats that are good for a glowing complexion. These same fats also work to help boost your immune system from the cold viruses that lurk around during the winter months.

*Drink water.

The cold winter air combined with the drying indoor heat has a way of taking its toll on our skin, causing it to become dry and cracked. The best way to replenish the body's loss of moisture is by drinking plenty of water.

Experts recommend drinking a minimum of 8 to 10 glasses of water a day to remove unwanted toxins from the body and to keep it from becoming dehydrated.

*Exercise.

All it takes is at least 30 minutes of exercise a day for a minimum of three days a week to reap health benefits. Participating in an active lifestyle can help you keep the pounds off and stay looking fit and trim.

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Azie Taylor Morton, Ex-U.S. Treasurer, Dies

Azie Taylor Morton, 67, the only Black to serve as United States treasurer, died at an Austin, TX, hospital after she suffered a stroke at her home in Bastrop.

Morton was appointed treasurer in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter and served until 1981. The treasurer reports to the secretary of the treasury, the principal economic adviser to the president.

She served on President John F. Kennedy's Committee on Equal Employ-



Azie Taylor Morton

ment Opportunity and was a U.S. observer for presidential elections in Haiti, Senegal and the Dominican Republic.

Morton graduated from Huston-Tillotson College in Austin in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in commercial education.

Survivors include two daughters, Virgie Floyd and Stacey Hurst, both of Austin. She also had grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her husband, James Morton, died two years ago.

MEDICINE

▼ **DR. BEN CARSON HONORED:** Surgeon Benjamin S.

Carson Sr. (c) receives the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Award of Excellence from McDonald's Chairman and CEO Jim Cantalupo (r) and Ronald McDonald at the organization's 19th annual fund-raiser at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. The award recognizes individuals dedicated to improving the lives of children. Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital and professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, was honored for his work in separating conjoined twins. Honorees receive a \$100,000 grant donated to the children's charity of their choice.



This Week In Black History

January 6, 1984-

◀ **Robert N.C. Nix, Jr.** was inaugurated as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's 54th chief justice on this day, becoming the first Black elected to head a judicial branch of government in the U.S. Nix was first elected to the seven-member Court in 1971. Before that, he served as a Philadelphia Common Pleas Court judge from 1968 to 1971. Nix, a native Philadelphian, graduated from Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Justice Nix was a prominent lawyer during the Civil Rights Movement as a partner in the law firm of Nix, Rhodes

& Nix from 1958 to 1968. Nix retired from the bench in 1996 after more than two decades on the court. Nix died on August 23, 2003, in suburban Philadelphia at the age of 75.

January 7, 1995-

▶ **Lenny Wilkens** became the all-time winningest coach in NBA history when his team, the Atlanta Hawks, won the game that marked his 939th coaching win on this day. The win allowed him to surpass Boston Celtics coach Red Auerbach's 938 victories. Wilkens served double duty as a player and coach of the Seattle SuperSonics and Portland Trailblazers. He later coached Cleveland before he arrived in Atlanta in 1993. In addition to his coaching success, the New York native set records during his four years at Providence College and during his 15-year pro playing career with St. Louis, Seattle, Cleveland and Portland. Wilkens is one of two people enshrined into the Basketball Hall of Fame as a player (1989) and as a coach (1998). He is the only person who occupies a spot on both the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History and the Top 10 Coaches in league history.



Five Steps To Keep Diabetes In Check In The New Year

January is the start of the new year and prime time to put diabetes in check. Diabetes strikes Blacks harder than any other race. But you can strike back against this disease and complications like heart and kidney disease, stroke, blindness and limb amputations by using your best weapon—prevention. Kick off 2004 by taking these five steps to good health:

1. Get physical. Even if you have your blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar checked regularly, you still need a complete physical exam once a year. An annual physical allows your doctor to screen for kidney and heart disease, nerve damage and other problems that can go unnoticed.

2. Vaccinate. The hallmark of diabetes—high amounts of sugar in the blood—weakens the immune system, making the body more prone to illnesses like the flu and pneumonia. People with diabetes are also more likely to die from the flu than those without diabetes, experts say. An annual flu vaccination is the best way to avoid the flu. If you haven't had a flu shot, get one soon since January is peak flu season. Medical experts also advise people with diabetes to get a pneumonia vaccination. Also, make sure you're

current with other immunizations, such as tetanus and hepatitis B shots.

3. Keep an eye on your sight. Vision problems also can accompany diabetes, so make an appointment with the eye doctor. An annual eye exam can detect cataracts, glaucoma and retinal damage—the most common eye problem of diabetes—before they steal your sight.

4. Check your chompers. A diabetes-weakened immune system also puts you at risk of gum disease and tooth decay since bacteria in the mouth can cause infections that lead to tooth loss. Keep teeth and gums healthy by brushing at least twice a day, flossing daily and checking for early signs of gum disease (bleeding gums, redness, swelling). See your dentist twice a year for checkups. If it's been at least six months since your last trip to the chair, now is a good time for a visit.

5. Work it. Exercising daily and shedding pounds if you're overweight reduces your risk of developing complications and, in some cases, controls blood sugar so that you won't need medication. This year, commit to a regular fitness routine. Just 30 minutes of activity every day can drastically improve your health.

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The new year—a time of fresh starts and bright beginnings. Another chance to grant that deepest wish for a gorgeous body. Live out those dreams of running a marathon or just an entire lap at the track. Reach your full potential of fitness and vitality.

Make this the year you claim a healthy, happy life. Start this season of change by vowing to focus on the most important person in your life—You. Take these pledges. Commit them to heart. And remember, in 2004, promises made, promises kept.

I promise to write down my goals. Turn wishful thinking into concrete action by writing down your goals for the new year. Whether you want to lose 20 pounds, lower your blood pressure so that you won't need to take medication or climb a flight of stairs without passing out, putting goals on paper gives them validity because once you can see them, you can be accountable for them. Post your action list in a visible place—a wall, door, bathroom mirror, nightstand, refrigerator—so that you'll stay mindful of your tasks.

I promise to be realistic. Setting impossible goals only sets you up for failure. Lasting (repeat, lasting) changes don't happen overnight. Be realistic about your progress and set attainable goals. For instance, if you need to lose 50 pounds, instead of

making 50 pounds your target, strive for 25. That way, if you lose 25 pounds, you've reached your goal and will stay inspired to keep going. And if you lose more than 25, all the more cause for celebration!

I promise to change my mindset about exercise. You wouldn't miss a day without eating or sleeping, so why skip exercising? Daily physical fitness is just as crucial to good health as getting three square meals and eight hours of shut-eye. Numerous studies have shown that exercise not only trims and tones your body, prevents bone and muscle loss and boosts the heart, lungs and circulatory system, but has invaluable effects on your long-term health. Exercise lowers blood pressure and cholesterol; prevents heart disease, stroke, diabetes, osteoporosis and certain cancers; and it relieves depression, improves the memory and boosts self-esteem. In other words, fitness is not an option—it's an absolute necessity.

I promise to make fitness my way of life.

Once you give exercise the high priority it deserves, it's easy to make time to work out. You need at least 30 minutes of exercise per day to reap health benefits, but you don't need to blast it out at once. But remember: Before you begin any exercise program, consult your doctor. Studies show that splitting up your workout



38 hands
+1 sneeze

2.7 trillion germs

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When you've downloaded a cold, it's nice to know there's
Kleenex Ultra Soft tissues with three germ-blocking layers.

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throughout the day is just as effective. You can take a 10-minute brisk walk three times a day or do 20 minutes of aerobics in the morning and 10 minutes of weight lifting in the evening to meet your daily fitness quotient.

I promise to exercise my creativity.

You don't need a high-end health club or state-of-the-art equipment to get in a good workout. Just find inventive ways to work more activity into your day. Get off the bus before your actual stop to squeeze in a good trek. Climb the stairs instead of riding elevators and escalators. Do toe stands anytime you have to stand in line. Perform bicep curls with shopping bags while you walk home. When you drive, park your car farther from your destination to sneak in a walk. Do lunges while you vacuum. Shovel snow from your driveway. If it makes you sweat, it's exercise.

I promise to make fitness fun.

Relieve the workout blahs by finding activities that satisfy your craving for fitness and fun. Take advantage of the ice, snow and cold of January by ice skating, sledding, skiing, building a snow family or staging a snowball battle royal. Hit the hot night spots and make the dance floor your workout zone. Take a brisk stroll through the mall and catch the holiday clearance sale.

I promise to practice food

moderation. Foods high in fat, cholesterol and calories set the stage for health problems like obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Take control of your health by taking control of your plate. Eat more fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Cut back on fat, salt and sugar. Fry less; bake, broil and grill more. Replace high-fat, high-calorie items with low-fat, lower calorie versions. Drink more water and less soda. By all means go easy on portion sizes. Eat until you're satisfied, not stuffed. And remember, fad diets are quick fixes. Adopt healthy eating habits that you can sustain your entire life.

I promise to break bad habits. Smoking, alcohol abuse and drug use can compromise your health, not to mention your life. As you embrace change this year, eliminate these and any other unhealthy habits in your life. If something impairs your body or your judgment, you certainly don't need it.

I promise to seek help. A good support system can play a vital role in your success. When you feel like quitting, a little push or a big shove from people who care can give you the momentum to reach your goals.

I promise to never give up. Big changes take time, so be patient. Record your progress and remember to reward yourself every time you reach a new goal. Above all, never give up.

You wouldn't use lipstick for eyeliner.
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**Introducing Poise® UltraThin.
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You know those little leaks that have nothing to do with your period? New Poise UltraThin works better than regular "period ultra thins" to control just this kind of wetness and odor. To help you stay dry and comfortable. Remember: period pads are period pads.



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CHECKED
BLOOD SUGAR 11:30 A.M.



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LOW-FAT DRESSING

SKIPS DESSERT

If you have diabetes, you probably think if you're managing your blood sugar, you're managing all your health risks. Unfortunately, managing your blood sugar may not be enough to help protect your heart. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) states that middle-aged people with type 2 diabetes have the same high risk of having a heart attack as people without diabetes who already have had a heart attack.

The Heart Protection Study by Oxford University, funded in part by Merck, researched ZOCOR. ZOCOR is the first and only cholesterol medication proven to significantly reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke in people with diabetes. Regardless of cholesterol level.

Before the Heart Protection Study was complete, over 160 million prescriptions for ZOCOR had been filled to lower cholesterol.

YOU MANAGE YOUR BLOOD SUGAR. WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP PROTECT YOUR HEART?



If you have diabetes, ask your doctor how ZOCOR, along with a healthy diet, can help protect you. Get information about the Heart Protection Study and ZOCOR at zocor.com or call 1-800-MERCK-75.

ZOCOR
(SIMVASTATIN)

Important considerations: ZOCOR is a prescription medicine and isn't right for everyone, including women who are nursing or pregnant or who may become pregnant, anyone with liver problems, and people who are allergic to any ingredients of ZOCOR. Unexplained muscle pain or weakness could be a sign of a rare but serious side effect and should be reported to your doctor right away. Your doctor may do blood tests before and during treatment with ZOCOR to check for liver problems. To avoid serious side effects, discuss with your doctor medicine or food you should avoid while on ZOCOR.

YOUR RESULTS MAY VARY.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR IF **ZOCOR** IS RIGHT FOR YOU.
PLEASE READ THE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT **ZOCOR**
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS AD.

ZOCOR. It's your future. Be there.



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To find out if you qualify, call 1-800-MERCK-75.

ZOCOR®

(SIMVASTATIN)

PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY, THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ZOCOR. NO ADVERTISEMENT CAN PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR DOCTOR HAS THE TRAINING TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR YOU.

USES OF ZOCOR

ZOCOR is a prescription drug that is indicated as an addition to diet for many patients with high cholesterol. For patients at high risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) because of existing heart disease, diabetes, vascular disease, or history of stroke, ZOCOR is indicated along with diet to reduce the risk of death by reducing coronary death; reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke; and reduce the need for revascularization procedures.

WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED

Some people should not take ZOCOR. Discuss this with your doctor.

ZOCOR should not be used by patients who are allergic to any of its ingredients. In addition to the active ingredient simvastatin, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, iron oxides, talc, titanium dioxide, and starch. Butylated hydroxyanisole is added as a preservative.

Patients with liver problems: ZOCOR should not be used by patients with active liver disease or repeated blood test results indicating possible liver problems. (See WARNINGS.)

Women who are or may become pregnant: Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus. **Women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant.** If a woman does become pregnant while on ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

Women who are breast-feeding should not take ZOCOR.

WARNINGS

Muscle: Tell your doctor right away if you experience any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness at any time during treatment with ZOCOR so your doctor can decide if ZOCOR should be stopped. Some patients may have muscle pain or weakness while taking ZOCOR. Rarely, this can include muscle breakdown resulting in kidney damage. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients taking certain other drugs along with ZOCOR:

- Cyclosporine, itraconazole, ketoconazole, erythromycin, clarithromycin, HIV protease inhibitors, the antidepressant nefazodone, or large quantities of grapefruit juice (>1 quart daily), particularly with higher doses of ZOCOR.
- Gemfibrozil, other fibrates, or lipid-lowering doses (≥ 1 g/day) of niacin, particularly with higher doses of ZOCOR.
- Amiodarone or verapamil with higher doses of ZOCOR.

The risk of muscle breakdown is greater at higher doses of simvastatin.

Because the risk of muscle side effects is greater when ZOCOR® (simvastatin) is used with the products listed above, the combined use of these products should be avoided unless your doctor determines the benefits are likely to outweigh the increased risks.

If your doctor determines that the benefits of combined use of ZOCOR with gemfibrozil, other fibrates, or niacin likely outweigh the increased risk of muscle problems, the dose of ZOCOR should not exceed 10 mg daily. No more than 10 mg/day of ZOCOR should be taken with cyclosporine.

The combined use of verapamil or amiodarone with doses above ZOCOR 20 mg should be avoided unless your doctor determines the benefits outweigh the increased risk of muscle breakdown.

Your doctor should also carefully monitor for any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and if the dose of either drug is increased. Your doctor also may monitor the level of certain muscle enzymes in your body, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe muscle disease.

The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients with kidney problems or diabetes.

If you have conditions that can increase your risk of muscle breakdown, which in turn can cause kidney damage, your doctor should temporarily withhold or stop ZOCOR. Also, since there are no known adverse consequences of briefly stopping therapy with ZOCOR, treatment should be stopped a few days before elective major surgery and when any major acute medical or surgical condition occurs. Discuss this with your doctor, who can explain these conditions to you.

Liver: About 1% of patients who took ZOCOR in clinical trials developed elevated levels of some liver enzymes. Patients who had these increases usually had no symptoms. Elevated liver enzymes usually returned to normal levels when therapy with ZOCOR was stopped.

In the ZOCOR Survival Study, the number of patients with more than 1 liver enzyme level elevation to greater than 3 times the normal upper limit was no different between the ZOCOR and placebo groups. Only 8 patients on ZOCOR and 5 on placebo discontinued therapy due to elevated liver enzyme levels. Patients were started on 20 mg of ZOCOR, and one third had their dose raised to 40 mg.

Your doctor should perform routine blood tests to check these enzymes before you start treatment with ZOCOR and thereafter when clinically indicated. Patients titrated to the 80-mg dose should receive an additional test at 3 months and periodically thereafter (eg, semiannually) for the first year of treatment. If your enzyme levels increase, your doctor should order more frequent tests. If your liver enzyme levels remain unusually high, your doctor should discontinue your medication.

Tell your doctor about any liver disease you may have had in the past and about how much alcohol you consume. ZOCOR should be used with caution in patients who consume large amounts of alcohol.

PRECAUTIONS

Drug interactions: Because of possible serious drug interactions, it is important to tell your doctor what other drugs you are taking, including those obtained without a prescription. You should also tell

other doctors who are prescribing a new medicine for you that you are taking ZOCOR® (simvastatin). ZOCOR can interact with the following:

- Itraconazole
- Ketoconazole
- Erythromycin
- Clarithromycin
- HIV protease inhibitors
- Nefazodone
- Cyclosporine
- Large quantities of grapefruit juice (>1 quart daily)

The risk of myopathy is also increased by the following lipid-lowering drugs that can cause myopathy when given alone:

- Gemfibrozil
- Other fibrates
- Niacin (nicotinic acid) (≥ 1 g/day)

The risk of muscle breakdown is increased with other drugs:

- Amlodarone
- Verapamil

Some patients taking lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR and coumarin anticoagulants (a type of blood thinner) have experienced bleeding and/or increased blood clotting time. Patients taking these medicines should have their blood tested before starting therapy with ZOCOR and should continue to be monitored.

Central Nervous System Toxicity; Cancer, Mutations, Impairment of Fertility: Like most prescription drugs, ZOCOR was required to be tested on animals before it was marketed for human use. Often these tests were designed to achieve higher drug concentrations than humans achieve at recommended dosing. In some tests, the animals had damage to the nerves in the central nervous system. In studies of mice with high doses of ZOCOR, the likelihood of certain types of cancerous tumors increased. No evidence of mutations or damage to genetic material has been seen. In 1 study with ZOCOR, there was decreased fertility in male rats.

Pregnancy: Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus.

Safety in pregnancy has not been established. In studies with lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR, there have been rare reports of birth defects of the skeleton and digestive system. Therefore, women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely they will become pregnant. If a woman does become pregnant while taking ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once. The active ingredient of ZOCOR did not cause birth defects in rats at 3 times the human dose or in rabbits at 3 times the human dose.

Nursing Mothers: Drugs taken by nursing mothers may be present in their breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a woman taking ZOCOR should not breast-feed. (See WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED.)

Pediatric Use: ZOCOR is not recommended for children or patients under 10 years of age.

Geriatric Use: Higher blood levels of active drug were seen in elderly patients (70–78 years of age) compared with younger patients (18–30 years of age) in 1 study. In other studies, the cholesterol-lowering effects of ZOCOR were at least as great in elderly patients as in younger patients, and there were no overall differences in safety between elderly and younger patients over the 20–80 mg/day dosage range. Of the 7 cases of myopathy/rhabdomyolysis among 10,269 patients on ZOCOR in another study, 4 were aged 65 or more (at baseline), 1 of whom was over 75.

SIDE EFFECTS

Most patients tolerate treatment with ZOCOR® (simvastatin) well; however, like all prescription drugs, ZOCOR can cause side effects, and some of them can be serious. Side effects that do occur are usually mild and short-lived. Only your doctor can weigh the risks versus the benefits of any prescription drug. In clinical studies with ZOCOR, less than 1.5% of patients dropped out of the studies because of side effects. In 2 large, 5-year studies, patients taking ZOCOR experienced similar side effects to those patients taking placebo (sugar pills). Some of the side effects that have been reported with ZOCOR or related drugs are listed below. This list is not complete. Be sure to ask your doctor about side effects before taking ZOCOR and to discuss any side effects that occur.

Digestive System: Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, gas, heartburn, stomach pain/cramps, anorexia, loss of appetite, nausea, inflammation of the pancreas, hepatitis, jaundice, fatty changes in the liver, and, rarely, severe liver damage and failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

Muscle, Skeletal: Muscle cramps, aches, pain, and weakness; joint pain; muscle breakdown.

Nervous System: Dizziness, headache, insomnia, tingling, memory loss, damage to nerves causing weakness and/or loss of sensation and/or abnormal sensations, anxiety, depression, tremor, loss of balance, psychic disturbances.

Skin: Rash, itching, hair loss, dryness, nodules, discoloration.

Eye/Senses: Blurred vision, altered taste sensation, progression of cataracts, eye muscle weakness.

Hypersensitivity (Allergic) Reactions: On rare occasions, a wide variety of symptoms have been reported to occur either alone or together in groups (referred to as a syndrome) that appeared to be based on allergic-type reactions, which may rarely be fatal. These have included 1 or more of the following: a severe generalized reaction that may include shortness of breath, wheezing, digestive symptoms, and low blood pressure and even shock; an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and/or throat with difficulty swallowing or breathing; symptoms mimicking lupus (a disorder in which a person's immune system may attack parts of his or her own body); severe muscle and blood vessel inflammation, sometimes including rash; bruises; various disorders of blood cells (that could result in anemia, infection, or blood clotting problems) or abnormal blood tests; inflamed or painful joints; hives; fatigue and weakness; sensitivity to sunlight; fever, chills; flushing; difficulty breathing; and severe skin disorders that vary from rash to a serious burn-like shedding of skin all over the body, including mucous membranes such as the lining of the mouth.

Other: Loss of sexual desire, breast enlargement, impotence.

Laboratory Tests: Liver function test abnormalities including elevated alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin; thyroid function abnormalities.

NOTE: This summary provides important information about ZOCOR. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the prescribing information and then discuss it with them.



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SOCIETY WORLD

▲ **My Kind Of Wonderful:** Anthony V. Scurlock exchanged sacred marital vows during an enchanted double-ring ceremony with the former Tiffany M. Watts at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Detroit. The blushing bride has her own business as a wedding planner. The proud bridegroom is an entrepreneur in Memphis, TN. The loving couple honeymooned in Toronto, Canada. The newlyweds will make their home in Memphis.



▲ **Deep In My Heart:** Judy Reneé George united with Stephen Jay McCray at St. Stephen's AME Church in Jacksonville, FL. The bride is a graduate of Florida Community College at Jacksonville and Edwards Waters College. She works as assistant to the director for BlueCross BlueShield of Florida. The groom attended Georgia Southern University. He is a printer for Trend Offset printing. They honeymooned in the Bahamas and will live in Jacksonville.



◀ **Sweet Sixty:** Mr. and Mrs. Claude Audley of Wheaton, IL, celebrated 60 years of marriage with family and friends in Lisle, IL. Mrs. Thelma Audley is a retired elementary school counselor with the Chicago Board of Education. Her dedicated mate of six decades is a retired department manager for Deluxe Corp. They are the parents of two children, the grandparents of three and the great-grandparents of one.

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Logistics

Scott employee CHARLES BRICE
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SOCIETY WORLD

▲ **All Things Are Possible:** Marc Lawson and Jennifer Johns wed at Anthony's Fine Dining Restaurant in Atlanta. The bride, a graduate of Clark Atlanta University and the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management, is a community relations specialist with ING financial services. The groom, a graduate of Morehouse College, is senior software developer with AVAYA. They honeymooned in Cozumel, Ocho Rios and the Grand Cayman Islands.



▲ **Cultured Nuptials:** Ra Alim Shabazz and Loir Helm married at Tappan Hill in Tarrytown, NY. The couple met at Hampton University and attended graduate school at Bowie State University. The bride is a kindergarten teacher in Alexandria, VA. The groom is a curriculum and implementation specialist at Howard University. Mazatlan, Mexico, was the honeymoon spot. The pair will make their home in Fort Washington, MD.



◀ **Anniversary Bliss:** Mr. and Mrs. Richard Parker celebrated 50 years of marriage with family and friends during a dinner party hosted at the Paradise Valley Golf Course Clubhouse in Fairfield, CA, by their children. Mrs. Gladys Parker worked in retail at J.C. Penney. Her devoted mate of five decades was an insurance agent for Allstate. They are the parents of three. The Parkers have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The 46th Annual

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2003/04

Color Splash

Spring '04 Itinerary

(Partial Listing)

SHOW LOCATION	DATE & TIME
Hopkinsville, KY Alhambra Theater	Thurs., 1/08 8:00 PM
Jackson, TN Carl Perkins Civic Center	Fri., 1/09 8:00 PM
Nashville, TN War Memorial Auditorium	Sat., 1/10 8:00 PM
Birmingham, AL Wright Fine Arts Center-Samford University	Sun., 1/11 5:00 PM
Talladega, AL International Motorsports Hall of Fame Speed Channel Dome	Tues., 1/13 6:30 PM
Huntsville, AL Von Braun Center Concert Hall	Wed., 1/14 7:00 PM
Florence, AL Florence Conference Center	Thurs., 1/15 8:00 PM
Selma, AL School of Discovery/Pickard Auditorium	Fri., 1/16 8:00 PM
Dothan, AL Dothan Civic Center	Sat., 1/17 8:00 PM
Montgomery, AL Joe L. Reed Acadome-Alabama State University	Sun., 1/18 5:00 PM
Gainesville, FL Lincoln Middle School	Wed., 1/21 8:00 PM
Brunswick, GA The Ritz Theatre	Thurs., 1/22 8:00 PM
Jacksonville, FL The Florida Theatre	Fri., 1/23 8:00 PM
West Palm Beach, FL Redemptive Pointe by the Lake	Sat., 1/24 8:00 PM
Tampa, FL Tampa Hillsborough Urban League	Sun., 1/25 5:00 PM

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Ticket prices include one year subscription to **EBONY** or six months to **JET**.

UNCF's 'An Evening Of Stars' TV Special Pays Tribute To Longtime Host, Lou Rawls



▲ Lou Rawls receives an all-star tribute this week (Jan. 10) for hosting the annual United Negro College Fund's "An Evening Of Stars" for 25 years.

Veteran singer Lou Rawls will receive an all-star tribute to his unique artistry and generous philanthropy on the United Negro College Fund's "An Evening Of Stars"—25th Anniversary Tribute

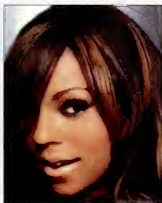
To Lou Rawls" this week on Jan. 10 (check local listing).

This year's show honors Lou Rawls, whose idea created the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) television special 25 years ago. Since its inception, the program has raised nearly \$200 million to help deserving students get a college education.

The special features all-star performances by Stevie Wonder, Beyoncé, Gerald Levert, Jaheim, the O'Jays, Musiq, Yolanda Adams, Chaka Khan, Donnie McClurkin, Smokie Norful, Shirley Caesar, Fred Hammond & Radical for Christ, new singer Vivian Green and others.

William H. Gray, UNCF president and CEO, says, "UNCF and the students who have benefited from the proceeds of this program, are honored to pay tribute to such an extraordinary individual. Lou's

▼ Among the stars performing on "An Evening Of Stars" are Stevie Wonder, Beyoncé, Jaheim and Ashanti. Since its inception, the program has raised nearly \$200 million to help deserving students get a college education.



unprecedented dedication to higher education and 25-year commitment to raising money for students to go to college deserves praise."

Rawls says, "I remember a woman came up to me once and said, 'Thank you. You made my grandson the first college graduate in our family.' That makes it all worth it."

Founded in 1944, the UNCF is the nation's oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization.

The four-hour special will air on



▲ Gospel music vocalists Yolanda Adams and Donnie McClurkin will bring their talent to the popular annual fund-raiser which salutes Lou Rawls this year.

nearly 70 stations across the country and also will broadcast on Jan. 9 and Jan. 11 in some markets.

Bennett College For Women Removed From Probation

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS) announced that Bennett College for Women has been removed from probation.

This ended a two-year period of anxiety during which the college was placed on probation for fiscal instability. The Greensboro school was ending its second year of probation, meaning it would either regain full certification or lose its accreditation.

"It is with enormous relief, gratitude and joy that we are able to share this wonderful news with the Bennett College family, the Greensboro community and the nation," President Johnnetta B. Cole said. "We are ever so thankful for the support that we have received and know that truly our new day has begun."

President Cole, the former head of Atlanta's Spelman College, the other Black women's college, arrived at Bennett in July 2002. She has raised \$15 million to date.

Since 2001 when the college was first placed on probation, SACS has reviewed the operations of the college and its programs to determine fiscal stability. The first review occurred in October 2002, just three months into the new administration at Bennett.

Although the SACS Special Committee noted significant improvement during the first three months of the new administration, it indicated that sufficient time had not elapsed to determine fiscal stability. This resulted in the college having continued its probation status "for good cause" for another year.

Wintertime Tips For Keeping Kids Safe & Warm Outdoors



▲ *Dressing children in layers from head to toe is key to ensuring they are adequately clothed to face the rigors of a day of play outdoors in cold weather.*

It's the dead of winter. And with the wind and cold—especially from the looks of the 4-6 inches of freshly fallen snow—it's not fit for man or beast; except, of course, for your children who seem magnetically drawn to the snowflakes.

To help keep your kids warm and dry in the wintertime, here are a few outdoor safety tips from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Network For Child Care (NNCC).

One of the ways to ensure against

endangering your children in cold weather is to know whether it's too cold to go out, or if your child is dressed adequately.

Our perception of temperature created by the combination of the actual temperature and the additional heat loss from exposed skin caused by the wind is called "wind chill," this is how cold it *feels* to us outside. The higher the wind speed and the lower the temperature, the greater the wind-chill effect.

Wind chill does not affect inani-

"I take this as a sign that she likes it."



Isn't that something
to smile about?



mate objects, nor does it affect people who are sheltered from the wind.

When the weather is extremely cold, remember these tips to protect your child's health and safety: a hat—most of a person's body heat is lost through the head—and a scarf or knit mask to cover face and mouth to prevent the sting of breathing icy cold air, especially if your child has asthma. Have the child wear sleeves that are snug at the wrist, mittens (they are warmer than gloves) and water-resistant coats and shoes.

Dress your child in layers of loose-fitting clothes when it's very cold outside.

Be sure the outer layer of clothing is tightly woven, preferably wind-resistant, to reduce body-heat loss caused by wind. Wool, silk or polypropylene inner layers of clothing hold more body heat than cotton. Keep your child dry (wet clothing chills their body rapidly).

Do not ignore shivering. It's an important first sign that the body is losing heat, and consistent shivering means it's time for them to get inside.

Here are a few tips for those parents taking their infant outdoors to get their very first taste of winter:

Keep in mind that babies need about the same number of layers as adults for comfort and protection, indoors or out. A newborn's ability to regulate body temperature is not well developed, so you need to pay special attention to how they are dressed. Diapers and a cotton knit undershirt are important as the first layer of

clothing and should be kept dry with frequent changes. A baby who is too cold may fuss, but may not complain if too warm. Spotty-looking skin or pale cheeks may be a sign a baby is too cold, while a damp and sweaty neck or especially red cheeks are signs the baby may be overdressed.

Outdoors a knit or fleece cap, sweater, and blankets or a snowsuit are needed over their indoor clothes. Wrap small babies in a soft cotton flannel "receiving"-type blanket.

Wrap heavier fleece or quilted blankets over the first one for added warmth and protection. When you dress a baby for travel in a car, a snowsuit or car seat-friendly bunting with a buttonhole for the seatbelt is needed to fasten the baby in the car seat.

A snowsuit should have feet and hand covers, and it should have a wind- and water-repellent outer layer and an inner layer of fiber-filled, flannel, or fleece that holds still air to insulate.

Put a warm blanket over these suits if it is extremely cold outdoors. Remember to protect the baby's face from windburn and sunburn. Usually, you can drape one of the blankets loosely across the face during trips between the house and car. Be sure to uncover the child's face afterward.

If you are indoors (in a mall, for example) for a long period of time, take the baby out of the snowsuit or from under the covers to prevent sweating, which dampens clothes. Dampened clothes can chill your child when you return outdoors.

Just tell your little brother you forgot to pick him up because you were getting stoned. He'll understand.

responsibility

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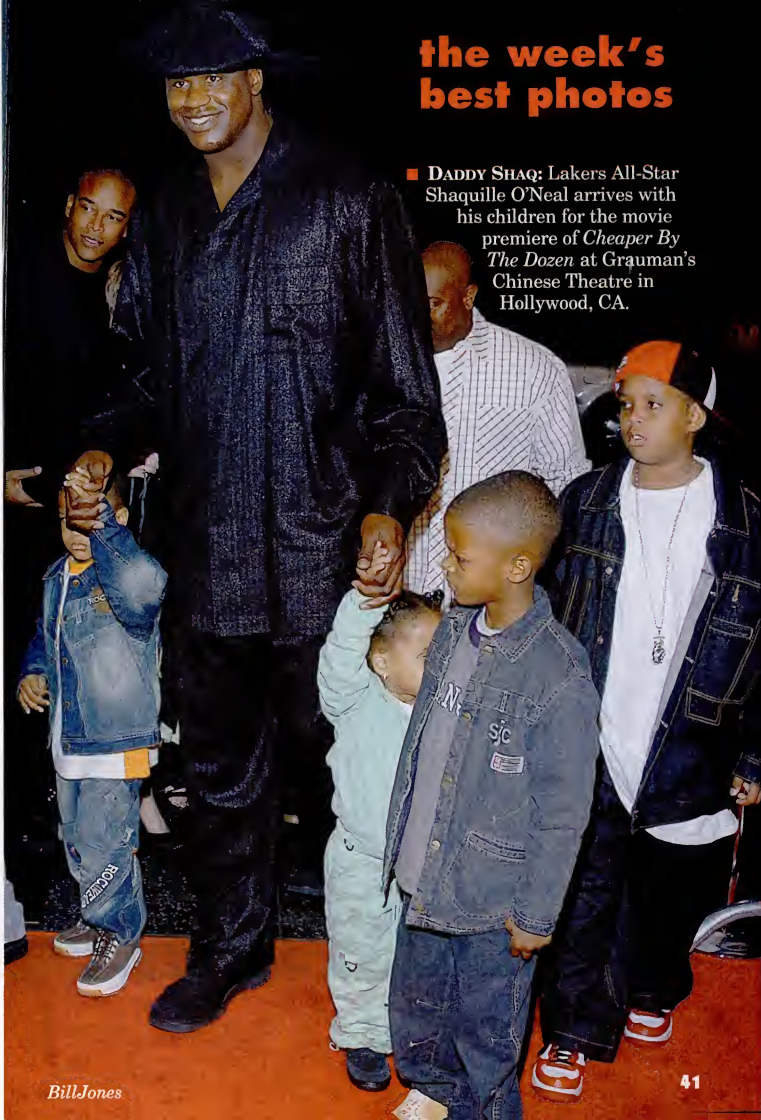


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the week's best photos

- **DADDY SHAQ:** Lakers All-Star Shaquille O'Neal arrives with his children for the movie premiere of *Cheaper By The Dozen* at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, CA.



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beauty of the week

AMANDA POE
is from Bloomfield,
MI. The 5-foot-5
Spelman College
student enjoys act-
ing, modeling and
dancing.

Photo by
Steven Ragland

■ **STAR TIME:**
Essence Atkins (l),
Chico Benymon
and Rachel True,
stars of UPN's
comedy "Half &
Half," attend the
Black AIDS
Institute's un-
veiling of portraits
of the 2003 Heroes
in the Struggle at
Paramount
Studios in L.A.



Shoshana Johnson Retires From Military

Shoshana Johnson, who spent 22 days as a prisoner of war in Iraq after she was shot during an ambush, has been discharged from the Army, officials said.

"Although I am now leaving the Army, I in no way regret my time in the military," Johnson said in a statement.

Johnson was a cook for the 507th Maintenance Company when it was ambushed in March. She was shot in both ankles and captured with five other soldiers, including Jessica Lynch. Nine soldiers died in the ambush (JET, April 7). She was shown in an Iraqi video fearfully watching her captors as they berated her and the other POWs with questions.

"To my fallen comrades and their



Shoshana Johnson

families, my utmost respect, and gratitude for their sacrifices," Johnson said. "Their memory has made me a better person and they will not be forgotten."

Johnson still periodically uses a walking cast, has a hard time staying on her feet for any period of time and isn't sleeping well, according to her family. Johnson, who served for five years, has said the decision to leave was tough. She had planned to spend 20 years in the military like her father, who served in the Gulf War and retired from the Army in 1999.

Johnson was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the Prisoner of War Medal for her service in Iraq.

Colin Powell Recovers From Prostate Cancer Surgery

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell recently underwent successful surgery for prostate cancer at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., according to the State Department.

And at JET press time he had resumed work from the hospital. "He's already called me twice before seven o'clock. So I think that's an indication he's doing fine," Deputy Secretary of State Richard



Colin Powell

Armitage said on NBC's "Today" show the day after Powell's surgery.

The surgery to remove the secretary's prostate, called a radical prostatectomy, was said to have lasted approximately two hours. "Everything went fine," said spokesman Richard Boucher at a State Department briefing. "The doctors say he had a localized prostate cancer. They say he did extremely well.

There are no complications and a full recovery is expected."

Powell, 66, was expected to be hospitalized for several days, and then to go home to McLean, VA, to recuperate further. Armitage will be in charge in his absence.

The day before the medical procedure took place Powell spoke by telephone to 23 foreign ministers, mostly on the capture of the fallen Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Boucher said.

State Department officials said

Powell told them that he would use an Internet connection in the hospital to stay in touch during his recovery.

Powell, a retired 4-star general, will be on a reduced schedule for some time. No exact date was given for Powell's return, but he is expected to be back in his office in the early part of this year.

According to American Cancer Society statistics, approximately 190,000 cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed in the U.S. every year.

Peabo Bryson's Grammys, Other Possessions, Auctioned To Pay \$1.2 Million Tax Debt

Friends of singer Peabo Bryson stepped in to help the award-winning singer keep some of his prized possessions, including at least one of his two Grammys.

Bryson's Grammy for *Beauty and the Beast* and *A Whole New World* were recently auctioned to help pay his \$1.2 million tax debt. The IRS seized all of Bryson's property from his Atlanta home in August for back taxes owed since 1984.

"This is the last resort with any taxpayer," said Eric Erickson of the IRS.

A woman who cast the winning \$9,400 bid for one of the Grammys (*A Whole New World*, (*Aladdin's Theme*) with Regina Belle) identified herself and her associates only as "very close friends of the family."



Peabo Bryson

"We're giving it back to him," she told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Bryson, 52, won a Grammy in 1992 for his recording of *Beauty and the Beast* with Celine Dion and another in 1993 for *A Whole New World* (*Aladdin's Theme*) with Regina Belle.

Bryson's 1992 Grammy sold for \$15,500 and one of his gold records went for \$3,000.

The auction also included a grand piano, the keys to the city of Miami, several gold records, a sound board and mixer, African art, hundreds of shoes, a large old-fashioned wood bed and a yellow-and-black spotted Italian jacket.

The IRS said it would not disclose the amount raised through the sale.



Toya Werner-Martin

■ **CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUE DINNER:** James W. Compton, president and CEO of the Chicago Urban League, congratulates comedian A.J. Jamal (l) and R&B singer Jeffrey Osborne on their performances at the recent Chicago Urban

League's 42nd Annual Golden Fellowship Dinner at the Hilton Chicago. Below, Betsy Holden, dinner co-chair and co-CEO of Kraft Foods, chats with John W. Rogers, chairman of the League's board of directors and chairman of Ariel Capital Management, Inc., during the evening's festivities. The event raised more than \$1.1 million to support the League's programs and initiatives in education, community empowerment and economic development. Nearly 2,000 guests attended the dinner, which is one of the largest social events in Chicago and celebrates the 87-year-old Chicago Urban League's service to its constituents and the city of Chicago.



Toya Werner-Martin

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Laurn Hill Speaks Out Against Abusive Priests In The Church

During a Christmas benefit concert at the Vatican in Rome, Grammy-winning singer Laurn Hill launched into an unscheduled tirade against priests who abuse children, according to recent news reports.

Hill read a statement criticizing the church and its leaders during the holiday concert, where she was a featured performer.

Several Italian newspapers ran translation of the statement, which was delivered in English. They quoted her as saying there was "no acceptable explanation for defending the church."

"I realize some of you may be offended by what I'm saying, but what do you say to the families who were betrayed by the people in whom they believed?" La Repubblica newspaper



Laurn Hill

quoted her as saying.

There was no immediate response to calls seeking comment from Hill's label, New York-based Columbia Records.

Prelates in the audience included Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the pope's vicar for Rome and the head of the Italian bishops' conference, and his deputy, Monsignor Rino

Fischella. The pope did not attend. At JET press time the Vatican had no comment.

Hill, a former member of the rap trio the Fugees, set a record for female artists in 1999 when she won five Grammy awards for her solo CD *The Miseducation of Laurn Hill*. Her most recent release is of a live performance titled *MTV Unplugged No. 2.0*.

Natalie Cole Purchases Condo In Los Angeles

Singer Natalie Cole recently bought a condo in Los Angeles for \$2 million, according to the Los Angeles Times newspaper

The 3,600-square-foot condo in a luxury high-rise building has four bedrooms and four bathrooms and overlooks the hills of the Westwood neighborhood of L.A.,



Natalie Cole

the paper reported.

She previously lived in the Beverly Hills area. Her latest CD is the critically acclaimed *Ask A Woman Who Knows*.

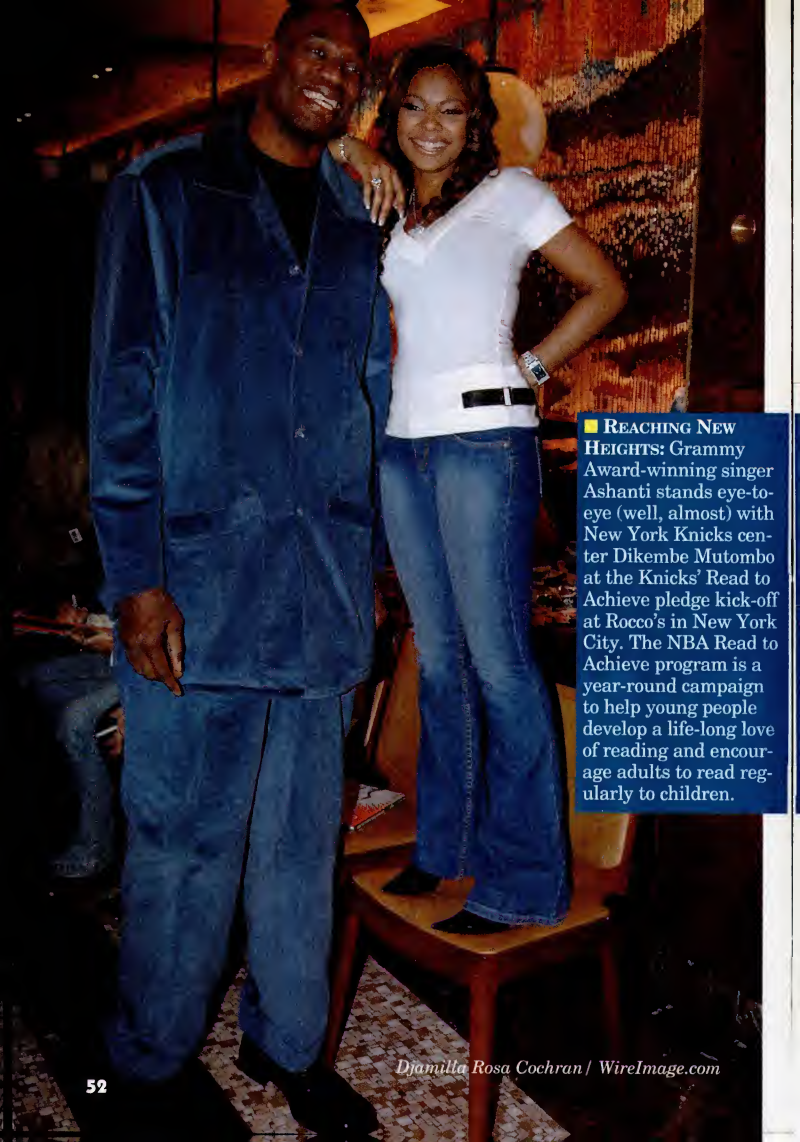
Her hits include *This Will Be*, *Inseparable* and the album *Unforgettable, With Love*, a tribute to her father, Nat King Cole.



◀ **RUSHING MILESTONE:** New York Jets running back Curtis Martin breaks Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Kendrell Bell's tackle on his way to a first down in East Rutherford, NJ. Martin's 30 carries for 174 yards against his hometown Steelers put him over 1,000 yards for the season, his ninth-straight, joining Barry Sanders as the only players in NFL history to accomplish the feat. "I had been very inconsistent throughout college, and everyone said that I wouldn't even be able to withstand the physicalness of the NFL and I wouldn't last," the 30-year-old Martin said. "But I would not allow myself to be deterred or be swayed by other people's opinion. I'm not big on statistics and individual goals, but this one is special to me. I'm only the second person in the world to do this."

▼ **NEW YANKEE:** Outfielder Gary Sheffield (c) fits his new Yankees cap as New York Yankees' manager Joe Torre (l) waits with a No. 11 jersey, and general manager Brian Cashman congratulates the new player during a news conference at Yankee Stadium in New York. Sheffield, 35, recently finalized his \$39 million, three-year contract with the star-studded baseball team. He hit .330 for the Atlanta Braves last season, with 39 homers and a career-high 132 RBI. The seven-time All-Star broke into the majors in 1988 with the Milwaukee Brewers, and he also has played for the Padres, Marlins and Dodgers.

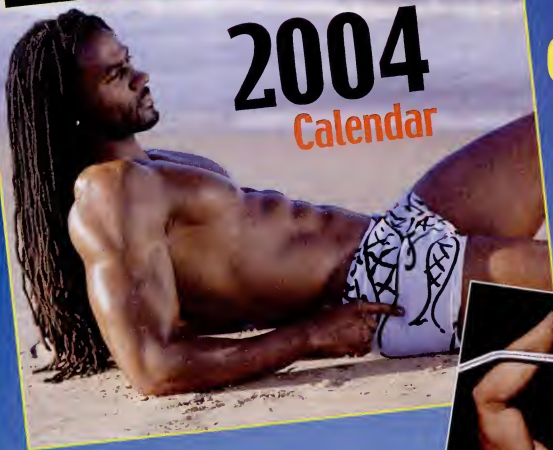




■ **REACHING NEW HEIGHTS:** Grammy Award-winning singer Ashanti stands eye-to-eye (well, almost) with New York Knicks center Dikembe Mutombo at the Knicks' Read to Achieve pledge kick-off at Rocco's in New York City. The NBA Read to Achieve program is a year-round campaign to help young people develop a life-long love of reading and encourage adults to read regularly to children.

JET BROTHERS

2004 Calendar

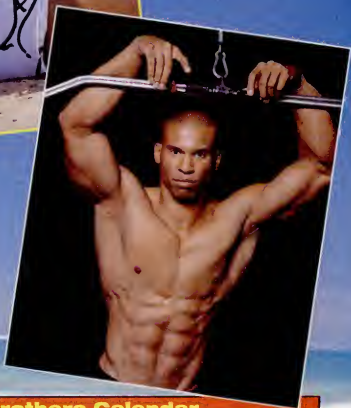


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Saints' Joe Horn And Bengals' Chad Johnson Get Big Fines For Touchdown Celebrations



New Orleans Saints receiver Joe Horn was recently fined \$30,000 by the NFL for making a choreographed cell phone call in the end zone to celebrate a touchdown.

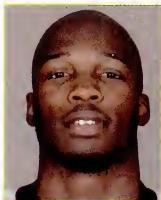
▲ New Orleans Saints wide receiver Joe Horn talks on his cell phone after he scored a touchdown against the New York Giants. He was fined \$30,000.

celebrate a touchdown.

Return specialist Michael Lewis was fined \$5,000 for helping orchestrate the stunt, and Horn said he would pay that fine.

After he caught the second of four touchdown passes in a 45-7 victory over the New York Giants, Horn was

▼ Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chad Johnson holds a sign that asked the NFL not to fine him after he scored a 10-yard touchdown catch against the San Francisco 49ers. He was fined \$10,000.



handed a cell phone by Lewis, who pulled it from the padding used to protect the goal post.

Horn was still wearing his helmet when he punched in numbers, put the phone in the helmet's ear area and spoke into it for a few seconds.

"Would I take it back? No, no. I knew exactly what I was doing," Horn said after the game.

The Saints were penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct for the stunt.

Flashy touchdown celebrations violate NFL rules.

Meanwhile, Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chad Johnson was fined \$10,000 for holding up a preprinted sign after he scored a touchdown in a 41-38 victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

After he scored the touchdown, he ran to a snow bank behind the end zone and pulled out a preprinted orange sign that read: "Dear NFL, Please don't fine me again."

It is the third time Johnson has been fined this season for touchdown celebrations that violate league rules.

Johnson said he's not going to change with two games left in the regular season. He's been fined repeatedly for violating guidelines on uniform appearance and on-field celebrations.

"It's fun," he said of touchdown celebrations. "It's part of the game. They can't take that away from us. I've got to continue to do what I do. That's just Chad."

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JAY-Z ■

1. THE BLACK ALBUM

Jay-Z (Roc-A-Fella)

2. DIARY OF ALICIA KEYS

Alicia Keys (J)

3. THIS IS NOT A TEST

Missy Elliott (The Gold Mind)

4. TUPAC: RESURRECTION

Various Artists (Amaru)

5. SPEAKERBOXXX/THE LOVE BELOW

Outkast (Arista)

6. BLOOD IN MY EYE

Ja Rule (Murder Inc.)

7. HARD

Jagged Edge (Columbia)

8. HOT & WET

112 (Bad Boy)

9. BEG FOR MERCY

G-Unit (G-Unit/Shady)

10. NUMBER ONES

Michael Jackson (Epic)

11. DA DERRY VERSIONS-THE REINVENTION

Nelly (Fo' Reel)

12. JACKPOT

Chingy (Disturbing Tha Peace)

13. THE R. IN R&B COLLECTION: VOLUME ONE

R. Kelly (Jive)

14. THE PREACHER'S SON

Wyclef Jean (Yclef/J)

15. LUTHER VANDROSS LIVE: RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL 2003

Luther Vandross (J)

16. MARRIED TO THE GAME

Too Short (Short/Jive)

17. 2:35 PM

Calvin Richardson (Hollywood)

18. DANGEROUSLY IN LOVE

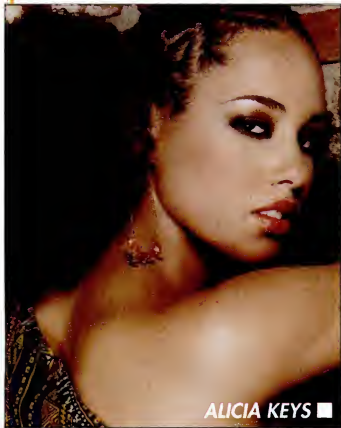
Beyoncé (Columbia)

19. I CAN'T STOP

Al Green (Blue Note)

20. SO DAMN HAPPY

Aretha Franklin (Arista)



ALICIA KEYS ■

TOYOTA

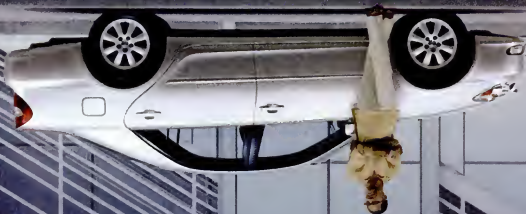


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GET THE FEELING

TOYOTA

While rocking to Missy “Misdemeanor” Elliott’s latest sonic hit, *Pass That Dutch*, a tune fully armed with her trademark party-moving beats, you can rest assure that this is Missy at her finest—she dropped another hit record from her lineage of platinum albums.

The hip-hop mainstay isn’t afraid to keep fans guessing, so she strategically put aside all pre-conceived notions and prior achievements to reinvent herself once again to bring fans music “as real as you can get for

do it. I switch it up. I get ideas from either my experiences or somebody else’s experiences, but most of the time I’m just in the studio and it’s whatever the track makes me feel, then I write to it.”

Since her 1997 smash debut album *Supa Dupa Fly*, Missy built her credibility on her original style, wicked beats, twisted videos, and unique rhymes, which all remain a phenomenon after her fifth album in just six years.

On *This Is Not A Test!*, Missy doesn’t limit herself to rap—she creates a breaking balance with R&B.

HIP-HOP INNOVATOR

Missy Elliott

REINVENTS HERSELF—AGAIN—WITH NEW CD ‘THIS IS NOT A TEST!’

a Missy album” in her newly released CD, *This Is Not A Test!*

The 32-year-old innovator lets it be known that through the course of each reinvention, she is a songwriter first, producer second, and then a rap artist. All the while, the creative guru continues to preserve her infectious, distinctive sound.

“Basically I don’t listen to radio,” Missy reveals about her secret formulas. “I listen to all old-school and hip-hop. If someone says that sounds like you’ve done it before, then I won’t

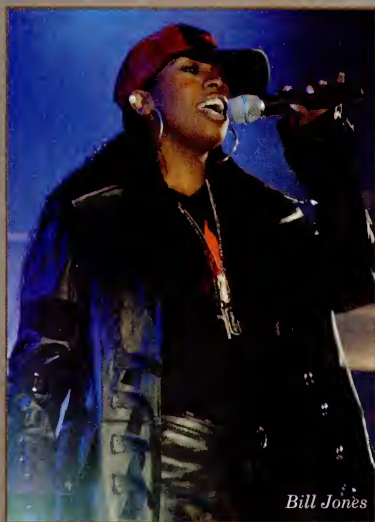
Missy Elliott reinvents herself again on her fifth album, This Is Not A Test! The hip-hop artist tells fans not to be alarmed because her music is “as real as you can get.”

A full-page photograph of Missy Elliott standing behind a chain-link fence. She is wearing a white baseball cap, a white t-shirt with a circular graphic that says "THIS IS NOT A TEST" and features a woman's face, and a dark skirt. She is holding the fence with both hands. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

She exhibits her vocals in *It's Real, Is This Our Last Time*, featuring label mate Fabolous and *Dats What I'm Talkin About*, featuring R. Kelly. Missy has fun with club bangers *I'm Really Hot*, *Keep It Movin*, featuring Elephant Man, *Pump It Up* with Nelly and *Let Me Fix My Weave*.

Missy says she especially wants fans to heed the message in her songs *Wake Up* and *I'm Not Perfect*. The latter uses heartfelt lyrics to remind fans that the superstar is not superhuman. The Clark Sisters croon on the cut, "I'm not perfect just like you/so come and let me give you a hug/I got problems just like you/so won't nobody sit here and judge."

In the primal anthem *Wake Up*, Missy does just that to hip-hop fans with the



Bill Jones



▲ Missy, who performed at an MTV organized concert in October, has lost over 70 pounds since her Supa Dupa Fly days (r). She says “working it” in dance classes and running have allowed her to keep the weight off.

help of Grammy Award-winning rap artist Jay-Z. Together their rhymes weigh in on Black people quitting the materialistic and thug life. She says the hefty message is a change to what you’ve heard on her records.

“*Wake Up* is a record that people need to hear,” Missy tells JET after one of her four daily workout sessions. “I always tell people about loving materialistic things. As an artist we’ve become role models even though we don’t want to because we feel a lot of times we can’t make mistakes. But in *Wake Up*, I felt like I’m going to use being an artist to my

advantage.

“If you don’t have a gun it’s all right, if you make legal money it’s all right, if you got to wear the same jeans it’s all right, if you don’t have the wheels to spin it’s all right,” Missy rhymes, citing lyrics from the record. “I can’t touch the whole world and I can’t save the whole world, but somebody is listening.”

R&B singers Mary J. Blige and Monica and dance-hall musician Beenie Man also make cameo appearances on *This Is Not A Test!*

Missy’s fans and friends have been



▲ *With the longtime collaboration with beatmaster Tim Mosley, aka Timbaland, Missy has won numerous honors, including a Grammy Award for the 2003 Female Rap Solo Performance for Scream a.k.a. Itchin.*

dropping their jaws at her newest invention: her retooled curvy figure. Since learning of her high blood pressure and even higher risk of stroke over a year ago, the spunky megatalent worked it and has shed 71 pounds. But the slimmed-down Missy says she does not know which was more difficult: losing the load or keeping it off.

"I'm from the South and we like to eat," the Virginia-native explains, giggling. "So it's plenty times I go in the kitchen. My assistant lives with me, and he eats pretty much the way he wants to eat, so he might have like an apple pie in there or some fries and stuff like that, so I'm human and I still cheat. But I know once I eat that apple pie, I know I got to go run it off for like an hour and a half sometimes.

"That's pretty much what I've been doing because I've been cheating actually too much. I've been doing a lot of running, a lot of dance classes and drinking a lot of water."



Teamed with beatmaster Timbaland and video director Dave Meyers, Missy has been elevating the game since she first "hee-hee-haw'd" on the set. With a bubbly personality and vivid imagination, it's incredible that this trendsetter only needs a "Coke, a pack of peanut M&Ms and the lights cut down low" to put down her boisterous tracks in the studio and map out her futuristic videos.

"About 97 (percent) of the videos are my ideas. If I could tape the videos, then I would. But that is where the other 3 percent comes from, the director. I have over half of the input of the videos that I do, and they really are my ideas, it's just that the director takes like a day and throws his spices on it. I love it that



Missy is busy outside of the studio as well, appearing in the movie *Honey* and starring in a Vanilla Coke commercial with Chazz Palminteri.



Jackson get up there and get awards and do their acceptance speech. So when I was able to get up there and do that, I felt like, 'Man, this must be it right here.'

way, because nobody can really interpret your vision but you."

During her stellar career, Missy's booty-shakers such as *The Rain*, *Hot Boyz*, *One Minute Man*, *Scream A.K.A. Itchin'*, *Get Ur Freak On*, *Gossip Folks*, and *Work It* have earned her dozens of music honors, including two Grammys, a 2003 American Music Award and MTV's 2003 Video of the Year for *Work It*.

It wasn't until she accepted these awards that Missy gave herself her first "dap" for making successful waves in the industry.

"The first award I had ever won I looked at it like 'Wow,' because I was used to seeing as a kid all the big people like Michael Jackson and Janet

"And then when I look back at all the people I've had a chance to work with, from the big names to the small names, I felt like, I deserve a little pat on the back. I don't feel like I've accomplished everything yet, but when I first did that I felt like I could feel good for a second. It's a beautiful thing. I was blessed to be able to do records for people like Janet (Jackson) or Mariah (Carey) or Whitney (Houston)."

Missy's 2002 double platinum album *Under Construction* was inspired in part by the devastating and sudden loss of the talented songstress (and her close friend) Aaliyah in 2001. Not only was the production process healing to Missy, the hard work was felt by



others; *Under Construction* nabbed five Grammy nominations, including the prestigious Album of the Year, for next month's ceremony.

In a league of her own, the savvy businesswoman is a self-made franchise. She is the CEO of her own record label, The GoldMind Inc., and her endorsement deals with Coca-Cola, Gap and Adidas have propelled her hip-hop image into the mainstream. In fact, Missy uses this influence as spokesperson for Break The Cycle, an organization dedicated to helping young people to break the chain of domestic abuse, an issue that hits close to home for Missy.

Although the multimedia magnet appears as herself in the movie *Honey*, Missy says she's going to leave her acting to strictly commercials for a while.

"I've had tons and tons of requests (to act in movies), probably immediately from the time I came out, but I believe when you go over to that side,

you have to know that's what you want to do. You have to be good at it, because those artists, those actors and actresses, they don't play about coming over to their side trying to take their set. They are ready to tear you down if you can't act, so I want to take my time with that. That's not something that I'm going to jump right into to try to get a Halle Berry role and stuff like that," Missy says, laughing. "I love music, so that's what I'm going to stick to for a long minute."

That's music to fans' ears because Missy, a true-to-the-heart "Momma's girl," doesn't see herself slowing down anytime soon. She says she can't remember the last time she took a vacation and easily becomes bored if she's not in the studio. "I believe in this game, when you're an artist, it's a time limit," Missy admits. "Some people might not feel like that, but you're not going to be rapping at 80 years old, and you ain't going to be rapping at 50 either. So, for me, I just want to concentrate on my artists and build my label right now, so when I'm older, I can sit back and relax."

With her bold style and sound, Missy has used her charismatic musical talent to cross over to so many genres. So, what's left for her to do? "It would be unique to try a country record. I've done the house thing, I've done the techno thing, I've done the old-school, I've done the pop, I think now I should try a country record.

"That's the only thing pretty much left," she laughs.

—MELODY K. HOFFMAN

Michael Jackson Charged In Case Stemming From Child Molestation Allegations

Superstar Michael Jackson was formally charged with child molestation.

The charging documents specified seven counts alleging lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent.

The alleged molestation and intoxication are believed to have occurred between February and March of 2003. The molestation counts each carry from three to eight years in prison.

The charges came nearly a month after authorities raided Jackson's Neverland Ranch and arrested him days later on suspicion of child molestation. He has been free on \$3 million bail. (JET, Dec. 8, 2003).

At a news conference, Santa Barbara (CA) County District Attorney Tom Sneddon dismissed the suggestion that the delay in filing charges signaled a weak case. "I want to categorically say that is false," he said.

Jackson has said the charges are "predicated on a big lie." His attorney, Mark Geragos, has said Jackson's accusers are after the singer's money.

At press time, Sneddon agreed to delay Jackson's arraignment a week to Jan. 16 and return Jackson's passport to allow him to travel to Britain from Dec. 20 to Jan. 6.

The allegations are believed to involve a boy, now 14, who spent nights at Jackson's estate in California.

Ten months ago, the boy appeared on national television in a British doc-



Michael Jackson

umentary holding hands with Jackson, who said the two had slept in the same bedroom but not the same bed, AP reported. In the months since Jackson's arrest in the current case, questions have been raised about the credibility of the boy's family.

In a leaked confidential memo, Los Angeles County child welfare investigators who looked into the case last February said they found no improper behavior on Jackson's part. According to the memo, the boy, his mother and siblings praised Jackson and said no abuse occurred.

The boy's family also filed a lawsuit claiming that the boy, his brother and mother were beaten by mall security guards in 1998 after the boy left a Southern California J.C. Penney store carrying clothes that had not been paid for. The lawsuit also alleged the mother was sexually assaulted. The family received a \$137,500 settlement.

In addition, the boy's father pleaded no contest to spousal abuse in 2001. The couple are now divorced.

Jackson and the boy met two years ago through comedy club owner Jamie Masada, who had asked the pop star to cheer up the young cancer victim. At the time, the boy had been given three weeks to live. His spleen and one of his kidneys had been removed because of stomach cancer.

The boy's current medical condition is unclear.

in the SPOTLIGHT

Nick Cannon has been called "the next Will Smith." And like Will Smith, Nick can do it all.

He can act, rap and dance. You name it. He's a hit on TV, in the movies, and on the record charts.

ular girls at school.

He is also a hit with music fans with the party hit, *Gigolo*, produced by R. Kelly, with a sizzling video that is getting a lot of airplay on music cable channels. The tune is featured on his self-titled debut CD that also includes the singles, *Your Pops Don't Like Me* and *Feelin' Freaky* featuring B2K and also produced by Kelly.

Nick won mainstream recognition for his starring role in the 2002 heartfelt movie *Drumline* as a wayward college freshman whose amazing talent as a drummer lands him a spot in a top college marching band. The starring role won the new heartthrob an MTV "Best Kiss" award nomination.

He first won a huge following of young fans several years ago as the warm-up act for Nickelodeon's long-running hit series "All That." He later starred and executive-produced "The Nick Cannon Show," also on Nickelodeon.

The busy entertainer had his young female fans screaming with joy when he hit the road last summer on the sizzling "Scream 3" tour, starring B2K, Marques Houston and Mario.

Nick is certainly the man to watch this year. He has the looks, talent and intelligence to be a star for as long as he wants.

MULTI-TALENTED PERFORMER

Nick Cannon
IS A HIT ON TV,
IN MOVIES AND ON CD

"Will has been such a positive force in my life," the 23-year-old star says. "He told me that I remind him of himself when he was younger. That's the most incredible compliment anyone could ever give me."

Nick is winning new fans in the hit romantic comedy *Love Don't Cost A Thing* in which he stars as a "nerd" who tries to convince his schoolmates that he is dating one of the most pop-



television



'Gladiator'

Djimon Hounsou plays Juba and **Russell Crowe** plays Roman General Maximus in *Gladiator*, a sweeping story of courage and revenge. The great Roman General Maximus has led the legions to victory on the battlefield, now he has come to Rome, intent on avenging the murder of his wife and son by killing the new emperor, (Monday, January 12 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC. Others

scheduled to appear this week include:

Gary Dourdan on "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," (Thursday, January 8 at 8 & 9 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Coby Bell/Michael Beach/Nia Long on "Third Watch," (Friday, January 9 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

André Braugher on "Hack," (Saturday, January 10 at 9 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Ernie Hudson on "10-8," (Sunday, January 11 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Steve Harris/LisaGay Hamilton on "The Practice," (Sunday, January 11 at 10 p.m., ET) on ABC.

James Lesure/Marsha Thomason on "Las Vegas," (Monday, January 12 at 9 & 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Tracy Morgan/Tamala Jones/Heavy D/Marc John Jeffries/Bobb'e J. Thompson/Katt Williams/John Witherspoon on "The Tracy Morgan Show," (Tuesday, January 3 at 8 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Whoopi Goldberg/Wren T. Brown on "Whoopi," (Tuesday, January 3 at 8:30 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Daman Wayans/Tisha Campbell Martin/George O. Gore II/Parker McKenna Posey/Jennifer Nicole Freeman on "My Wife and Kids," (Wednesday, January 14 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.

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